

60,130-1839; 03MRA0243

REMARKS

The drawings have been amended in response to the examiner's questions and comments. Replacement drawings are attached.

This application has been amended in response to the office action. All of the claims have been amended to highlight the main feature of this invention, which is the use of a plurality of distinct length reconfigurable portions to allow a driveline to be created of a desired overall length. The references to Mangas, et al., Smith and Marcum disclose no such feature. While there is a brief mention in the Burton reference of utilizing different lengths for the portion 26, there is distinct structure between what is required by the independent claims and Burton. Burton is directed to a very complicated structure including a sealing sleeve which seals between an inner periphery of the sealing sleeve, and the male yoke, and an outer periphery of a female receptacle portion. The claims require a seal sitting on an outer periphery of a stem of the male component. Burton simply does not meet these limitations.

Further, there are several dependent claims that recite other features which are not shown by the prior art. The claims are allowable over the prior art, and an indication of such is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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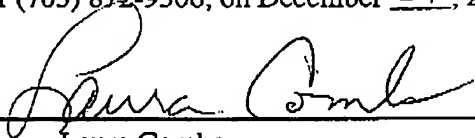
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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States patent and Trademark Office, fax number (703) 872-9306, on December 21, 2004.



Laura Combs